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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/523,056	03/10/2000	Marc Lamberton	FR9-99-008	4566
25299	7590	06/28/2005	EXAMINER	
IBM CORPORATION			NGUYEN, DUSTIN	
PO BOX 12195			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
DEPT YXSA, BLDG 002				2154
RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, NC 27709			DATE MAILED: 06/28/2005	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/523,056	LAMBERTON ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Dustin Nguyen	2154

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

**A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM  
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.**

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 March 2005.  
 2a) This action is **FINAL**.                            2b) This action is non-final.  
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.  
 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
 5) Claim(s) 5-12 is/are allowed.  
 6) Claim(s) 1,2,13 and 14 is/are rejected.  
 7) Claim(s) 3,4,15 and 16 is/are objected to.  
 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
 a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
|  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. Claims 1-16 are presented for examination.

***Response to Arguments***

2. In view of the Appeal filed on 03/24/2005, PROSECUTION IS HEREBY REOPENED.

A new ground of rejection is set forth below.

To avoid abandonment of the application, appellant must exercise one of the following two options:

- (1) file a reply under 37 CFR 1.111 (if this Office action is non-final) or a reply under 37 CFR 1.113 (if this Office action is final); or,
  - (2) request reinstatement of the appeal.
- If reinstatement of the appeal is requested, such request must be accompanied by a supplemental appeal brief, but no new amendments, affidavits (37 CFR 1.130, 1.131 or 1.132) or other evidence are permitted. See 37 CFR 1.193(b)(2).

***Allowable Subject Matter***

3. Claims 3, 4, 15 and 16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1, 2, 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hendel et al. [ US Patent No 6,049,528 ], in view of Samba [ US Patent No 5,539,815 ].

6. As per claim 1, Hendel discloses the invention substantially as claimed including a data transmission system operable for transmitting packet data from an Internet Protocol (IP) host over an IP network comprising:

an IP layer [ 60, Figure 3 ];

a network layer coupled to the IP network [ Figure 1A; and col 1, lines 49-58 ], wherein said IP host is coupled to said IP network via a layer 2 network [ 50A, 50B, Figure 1A ], said layer 2 network interfacing said IP network with a set of routers [ 120, 120', Figure 1A; and col 1, lines 54-56 ]; and

a Multiple Address Resolution Protocol (MARP) layer [ 150, Figure 3 ], said MARP layer between said IP layer and said network layer [ Figure 3; and col 7, lines 19-22 ].

Hendel does not specifically disclose MARP layer operable for selecting one router of said set of routers in response to a next hop IP address provided by said IP layer to said MARP layer when a packet of data is to be transmitted from said IP host over said IP network.

Samba discloses the selection process of selecting the intermediate node among multiple nodes for routing calls [ Figure 1; Abstract; col 8, lines 44-48; and col 10, lines 28-30 ].

It would have been obvious to a person skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Hendel and Samba because Samba's teaching of node selection would minimize the likelihood of blocked calls due to uneven or poorly distributed traffic loads [ Samba, col 8, lines 48-58 ].

7. As per claim 2, Hendel discloses IP host is provided with an Address Resolution Protocol (ARP) [ col 5, lines 25-27 ], said ARP operable to convert any IP address into a network address of a router to be used in said layer 2 network by mapping said IP address, in an ARP table into a network address of an active router selected from said set of routers [ col 10, lines 1-6 ].

8. As per claims 13 and 14, they are rejected for similar reasons as stated above in claims 1 and 2.

9. A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire **3 (three) months and 0 (zero) days** from the mail date of this letter. Failure to respond within the period for

response will result in **ABANDONMENT** of the application (see 35 U.S.C 133, M.P.E.P 710.02, 710.02(b)).

*Conclusion*

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dustin Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-3971. The examiner can normally be reached on flex.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Follansbee John can be reached on (571) 272-3964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Dustin Nguyen  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2154



VIET D. VU  
PRIMARY EXAMINER